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CONTACT: Brad Dayspring
(202) 225-3484

Hensarling, Lamborn Introduce the Protecting Americans from Violent Crime Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, and Congressman Lamborn (R-CO) today introduced the *Protecting Americans from Violent Crime Act of 2008* (H.R. 5434). The bill is a companion to Senator Tom Coburn's (R-OK) Senate legislation and would prohibit the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service's inconsistent and unconstitutional regulations that ban law-abiding citizens from carrying firearms on land managed by these agencies.

Despite numerous efforts by local, state, and federal officials, the Department of the Interior has not taken any steps to review their unconstitutional firearm restrictions. The ban effectively overrules laws in 40 states that allow law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm on state.

The current ban raises significant safety concerns as well. Various press reports have indicated that violence in national parks has increased significantly in recent years. The increase is more pronounced in and around border states, where dangerous smugglers and those who have illegally entered to the country pose a considerable risk to Americans visiting National Parks. Firearm restrictions prevent many citizens from protecting themselves on federal land.

"The Protecting Americans form Violent Crime Act of 2008 is intended to correct a mistake that the Department of the Interior has failed to address for 25 years. Regulations made by bureaucrats in Washington must not take precedence over state laws and the constitutional rights of the American people," said Hensarling, Chairman of the Republican Committee.

"While other federal land management agencies including the Bureau of Land Management and the Forestry Service have refrained from making regulations regarding the possession of firearms, the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service refuse to adapt their unsustainable position. The bill that we introduced today will restore the right of law-abiding Americans to protect themselves in our National Parks," Hensarling said.

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